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Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. José Alberto **Briz Gutiérrez** (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd meeting, on 19 September 2003, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 6th, 7th, 14th, 16th and 37th meetings, on 9, 17 and 20 October and 11 December 2003. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.6, 7, 14, 16 and 37). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 6 to 9 October (see A/C.2/58/SR.2-6)

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and draft programme of action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005 (A/58/179);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, entitled "Progress report on measures taken for the operationalization of the World Solidarity Fund" (A/58/72-E/2003/53);

(c) Letter dated 14 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué adopted by the Chairmen/Coordinators of the Chapters of the Group

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of 77 at their thirty-fourth meeting, held at Geneva on 26 and 27 June 2003 (A/58/204);

(d) Letter dated 13 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a document entitled "Italy's contribution to the Enhanced HIPC Initiative" (A/58/437);

(e) Letter dated 3 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the annual coordination meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 30 September 2003 (A/58/415-S/2003/952).

4. At the 6th meeting, on 9 October, the Chief of the Poverty Eradication and Employment Unit, Division for Social Policy and Development, Department for Economic and Social Affairs, introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

5. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States made a statement (see A/C.2/58/SR.6).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.3 and A/C.2/58/L.57

6. At the 14th meeting, on 17 October, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005" (A/C.2/58/L.3), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, in which it proclaimed 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion, for giving impetus to microcredit programmes in all countries, particularly in the developing countries,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasizes the role of microcredit as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes production and self-employment and empowers people living in poverty, especially women,

"*Stressing* that people living in poverty need access to a range of financial tools, in particular credit, that enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

"*Recognizing* the need to facilitate the access of people living in poverty to microcredit to enable them to undertake microenterprises so as to generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment, especially women,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the draft programme of action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;

"2. *Emphasizes* that the observance of the year 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance programmes that support sustainable pro-poor financial sectors in all countries;

"3. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund to jointly coordinate the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and observance of the Year;

"4. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national coordinating committees or focal points with responsibility for promoting the activities related to the preparation and observance of the Year;

"5. *Also invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in the preparation and observance of the Year and to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit, its role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the ways in which it can empower people and contribute to the development of communities in a sustainable manner;

"6. *Encourages* the holding of regional and subregional events on microcredit and, in this regard, welcomes the holding of the Asia-Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, to be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in February 2004;

"7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and foundations to make voluntary contributions and to lend other forms of support to the Year, in accordance with the guidelines for international years;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the preparation of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, in consultation with Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session under the agenda item entitled 'Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)'."

7. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced and orally corrected a draft resolution entitled "Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005" (A/C.2/58/L.57), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.3.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.57 as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

10. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.57, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.3 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.4 and A/C.2/58/L.66

11. At the 16th meeting, on 20 October, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced and orally revised a draft resolution, entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" (A/C.2/58/L.4), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002,

"*Recalling also* the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

"*Bearing in mind* the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

"*Underlining* the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Recognizing* that, for the poverty eradication strategy to be effective, it is imperative that developing countries be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization,

"*Recognizing also* the great potential of the World Solidarity Fund in contributing to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Stresses* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, and that, although each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to achieve their sustainable development goals as related to the internationally agreed poverty-related targets and goals;

"3. *Also stresses* that the recovery of the world economy has remained weak and slow, owing to the persistence of structural imbalances, the slow growth in the developed economies and the continuation of the acute problems faced by the developing countries in pursuing socio-economic development, which severely limits their capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and their own national targets with regard to the eradication of poverty;

"4. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment, water and sanitation, food security, energy and migration and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and to strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

"5. *Recognizes* that an increasing number of countries have intensified their efforts to strengthen participatory decision-making processes and to improve accountability and transparency in public affairs;

"6. *Regrets* the modest progress achieved in realizing the commitments undertaken by the international community and Governments, while stressing the importance of good governance at the global level as being fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development;

"7. *Also regrets* that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003, failed to produce an agreement seeking to address the interests and concerns of the developing countries, which had a negative impact on the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for the implementation of the Doha agenda, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001, during the forthcoming negotiations in Geneva;

"8. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and calls for the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and its monitoring and assessment by Member States and international institutions in order to carry the process forward, taking into account the importance of achieving greater equity in international economic relations and of giving a greater voice to developing countries in the multilateral decision-making structures and processes;

"9. *Underlines* that external assistance and international cooperation are key in supporting the efforts of developing countries to utilize fully their domestic resources for development and poverty eradication and in ensuring

that they will be able to achieve the development goals as envisioned in the Millennium Declaration;

"10. *Recognizes* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, and in that regard requests those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make those resources available as soon as possible;

"11. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001, encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

"12. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

"13. *Notes with great concern* the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the developing countries, which is adversely affecting their sustainable development efforts, stresses the need for creditors and debtors to assume responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and to provide debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation, in order to enhance activities geared towards poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and calls for the full, speedy and effective implementation of the enhanced heavily indebted poor countries initiative;

"14. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

"15. *Reaffirms* the importance of the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming as critical underlying factors for effective poverty-eradication strategies;

"16. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

"17. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious, contagious diseases on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in all regions, and urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to combating those diseases, welcomes the Fifteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS to be held in Thailand in 2004 and, in that respect, welcomes the recent agreement on paragraph 6 of the Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and public health, adopted at Doha;

"18. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take measures to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund by establishing on an urgent basis a high-level committee to define the strategy of the Fund and to mobilize resources;

"19. *Acknowledges* the need to enlarge the involvement of developing countries in joint efforts to overcome extreme poverty and, in this context, takes note of the initiatives undertaken by the developing countries, including those announced at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

"20. *Takes note* of the initiatives undertaken by regional and subregional organizations for overcoming extreme poverty;

"21. *Recognizes* the crucial role that microcredit and microfinance could play in the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the development of rural communities, encourages Governments to adopt policies that support microcredit schemes and the development of microcredit institutions and their capabilities, and calls upon the international community to support those efforts;

"22. *Stresses*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, the importance of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

"23. *Calls upon* the developed countries and the United Nations system to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnership with the international community;

"24. *Calls upon* the Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001;

"25. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and stresses that the implementation of this programme requires active cooperation among the landlocked developing countries, the transit developing countries and their development partners;

"26. *Supports* the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be held in Mauritius in 2004;

"27. *Calls for* the full implementation of resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provide a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and hunger, and in this context reaffirms the decision to hold a major event in 2005 to review progress made in the implementation of all the commitments contained in the Millennium Declaration;

"28. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty, and the need for their adequate and predictable funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"30. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled 'Implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)'."

12. At the 37th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ulrika Cronenberg-Mossberg (Sweden), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)" (A/C.2/58/L.66), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.4.

13. At the same meeting, the representative of Brazil orally corrected the text, as follows:

(a) The title above operative paragraph 32, which had read:

Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing countries

was revised to read:

Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

(b) In operative paragraph 33, the phrase "in accordance with its principles, objectives and priorities" at the end of the paragraph was revised to read "in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership;";

(c) In operative paragraph 36, the words "and that there is scope for a major event" were added to the end of the paragraph.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.66 as orally corrected (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.4 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Programme of Action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, in which it proclaimed 2005 the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit programmes in all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Recalling also its resolution 52/194 of 18 December 1997, in which it emphasized the role of microcredit and microfinance as an important anti-poverty tool that promotes asset creation, employment and economic security and empowers people living in poverty, especially women,

Stressing that people living in poverty in rural and urban areas need access to microcredit and microfinance that enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments such as credit, savings and related business services in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Recognizing the need to facilitate the access of people living in poverty, especially women, to microcredit and microfinance to enable them to undertake microenterprises so as to generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General containing the draft programme of action for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;[1]

2. *Emphasizes* that the observance of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance financial sector developments that support sustainable pro-poor financial services in all countries;

3. *Invites* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund to jointly coordinate the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and observance of the Year;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of scaling up microcredit and microfinance services and of using the Year as a platform to find ways of enhancing development impact and sustainability through sharing best practices and lessons learned;

5. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing national coordinating committees or focal points with responsibility for promoting the activities related to the preparation and observance of the Year;

6. *Also invites* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate in the preparation and observance of the Year and to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit and microfinance;

7. *Recognizes* that access to microcredit and microfinance can contribute to achieving the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and summits, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in particular the targets relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and empowerment of women;

8. *Encourages* the holding of regional and subregional events on microcredit and microfinance and, among those, welcomes the holding of the Asia-Pacific Region Microcredit Summit Meeting of Councils, in Dhaka, in February 2004;

9. *Encourages* Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and foundations to make voluntary contributions and/or to lend other forms of support to the Year, in accordance with the guidelines for international years;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the preparation of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005, in consultation with Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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[1] A/58/179.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

Draft resolution II
Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/196 of 22 December 1992, 48/183 of 21 December 1993, 50/107 of 20 December 1995, 56/207 of 21 December 2001 and 57/266 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted by heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] and in the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3]

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development[4] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[5]

Expressing its deep concern that the number of people living in extreme poverty in many countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority and the most affected groups, in particular in the least developed countries and in sub-Saharan Africa,

Recognizing that, while the rate of poverty in some countries has been reduced, some developing countries and disadvantaged groups are being marginalized and others are at risk of being marginalized and effectively excluded from the benefits of globalization, resulting in increased income disparity among and within countries, thereby constraining efforts to eradicate poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Reiterates* that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, that each country has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and poverty eradication, that the role of

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[6] A/58/179.

national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that concerted and concrete measures are required at all levels to enable developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

3. *Recognizes* that, in order for developing countries to reach the targets set in the context of national development strategies for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in particular the goal on the eradication of poverty, and for such poverty eradication strategies to be effective, it is imperative that they be integrated into the world economy and share equitably in the benefits of globalization;

4. *Reaffirms* that, within the context of overall action for the eradication of poverty, special attention should be given to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the national and international conditions and policies that are conducive to its eradication, fostering, inter alia, the social and economic integration of people living in poverty and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including the right to development;

Global response for the eradication of poverty

5. *Stresses* the importance of the follow-up to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and calls for the full and effective implementation of the Monterrey Consensus;[2]

6. *Reaffirms* that good governance at the international level is fundamental for achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development; in order to ensure a dynamic and enabling international economic environment, it is important to promote global economic governance through addressing the international finance, trade, technology and investment patterns that have an impact on the development prospects of developing countries; to that end, the international community should take all necessary and appropriate measures, including ensuring support to structural and macroeconomic reform, a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem and increasing market access for developing countries; efforts to reform the international financial architecture need to be sustained with greater transparency and with the effective participation of developing countries in decision-making processes; and that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development;

7. *Also reaffirms* that good governance at the national level is essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development, that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that freedom, peace and security, domestic stability, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law, gender equality, market-oriented policies and an overall commitment to just and democratic societies are also essential and mutually reinforcing;

8. *Recognizes* the major role that trade can play as an engine of growth and development and in eradicating poverty, regrets that the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to

14 September 2003, failed to produce an agreement, and calls for resumption of the negotiations and the implementation of the Doha agenda, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001;[7]

9. *Recognizes* the responsibility of all Governments to adopt policies aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices at the national and international levels, and welcomes in this regard, the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[8]

10. *Underlines* that, together with coherent and consistent domestic policies, international cooperation is essential in supplementing and supporting the efforts of developing countries to utilize their domestic resources for development and poverty eradication and in ensuring that they will be able to achieve the development goals as envisioned in the Millennium Declaration;

11. *Reiterates* that a substantial increase in official development assistance and other resources will be required if developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, are to achieve the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and that to build support for official development assistance, cooperation is necessary to further improve policies and development strategies to enhance aid effectiveness, both nationally and internationally, requests, in that regard, those countries that made announcements of increased official development assistance at the International Conference on Financing for Development to make those resources available as soon as possible, and notes in this context, the recent upward trend in official development assistance;

12. *Urges* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts to reach the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[9] encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

13. *Recognizes* that an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance and that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

14. *Recognizes also* that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth,

[7] A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[8] Resolution 58/4.

[9] See A/CONF.191/11.

sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in that regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards these objectives;

15. *Calls upon* the developed countries, by means of intensified and effective cooperation with developing countries, to promote capacity-building and facilitate access to and transfer of technologies and corresponding knowledge, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights, as well as the special needs of developing countries;

16. *Recognizes* the crucial role that microcredit and microfinance could play in the eradication of poverty, the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of vulnerable groups and the development of rural communities, encourages Governments to adopt policies that support access to microcredit as well as the development of microfinance institutions and their capacities, and calls upon the international community to support those efforts;

Policies for the eradication of poverty

17. *Reaffirms* that the eradication of poverty should be addressed in an integrated way, as set out in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[10] taking into account the importance of the need for the empowerment of women and sectoral strategies in such areas as, inter alia, education, development of human resources, health, human settlements, rural, local and community development, productive employment, population, environment and natural resources, water and sanitation, agriculture, food security, energy and migration, and the specific needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, in such a way as to increase opportunities and choices for people living in poverty and to enable them to build and strengthen their assets so as to achieve development, security and stability, and in that regard encourages countries to develop their national poverty reduction policies in accordance with their national priorities, including, where appropriate, through poverty reduction strategy papers;

18. *Underlines* in this context the importance of further integration of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in the national development strategies and plans, including the poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, and calls upon the international community to continue to support developing countries in the implementation of these development strategies and plans;

19. *Recognizes* the importance of disseminating best practices for the reduction of poverty in its various dimensions, taking into account the need to adapt those best practices to suit the social, economic, cultural and historical conditions of each country;

20. *Reaffirms* that all Governments and the United Nations system should promote an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective in all

[10] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, at both the national and international levels, and encourages the use of gender analysis as a tool for the integration of a gender dimension into planning the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty;

21. *Reaffirms also* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development;

22. *Emphasizes* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education, in particular basic education and training, especially for girls, in empowering those living in poverty, reaffirms in that context the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum,[11] and recognizes the importance of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization strategy for the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, in supporting the Education For All programmes as a tool to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education by 2015;

23. *Recognizes* the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious, contagious diseases on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction efforts in all regions, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa, urges Governments and the international community to give urgent priority to combating those diseases, takes note of the convening of the fifteenth International Conference on HIV/AIDS, to be held in Thailand in 2004, and in that regard welcomes the recent decision adopted by members of the World Trade Organization on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health;[12]

24. *Emphasizes* the link between poverty eradication and improving access to safe drinking water, and stresses in that regard the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, as reaffirmed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

25. *Recognizes* that the lack of adequate housing remains a pressing challenge in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in the urban areas in developing countries, expresses its concern at the rapid growth in the number of slum dwellers in the urban areas of developing countries, particularly in Africa, stresses that unless urgent and effective measures and actions are taken at the national and international levels, the number of slum dwellers, who constitute one third of the world's urban population, will continue to increase, and emphasizes the need for increased efforts, with a view to significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020;

Specific initiatives in the fight against poverty

26. *Recognizes also* the important potential contribution of the World Solidarity Fund to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in

[11] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000*, Paris, 2000.

[12] WT/MIN (01)/DEC/2. Available on the Internet at http://docsonline.wto.org.

particular the objective to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day and the proportion of the people who suffer from hunger;

27. *Reiterates* its endorsement of the decision of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish the World Solidarity Fund to eradicate poverty and to promote social and human development in the developing countries, while stressing the voluntary nature of the contributions and the need to avoid duplication of existing United Nations funds and encouraging the role of the private sector and individual citizens relative to Governments in funding the endeavours, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

28. *Encourages* Member States, international organizations, the private sector, relevant institutions, foundations and individuals to contribute to the World Solidarity Fund;

29. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in that regard, to take further measures to operationalize the World Solidarity Fund by establishing, on an urgent basis, the high-level committee whose task it is to define the strategy of the Fund and to mobilize resources to enable it to start its activities in the field of poverty alleviation;

30. *Acknowledges* the significance of greater involvement of developing countries in joint efforts, including those among developing countries, to overcome extreme poverty, and in this context takes note of the initiatives undertaken by the developing countries, including those announced at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

31. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional and subregional organizations for overcoming extreme poverty;

Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

32. *Stresses the importance*, as recognized in the Millennium Declaration, of meeting the special needs of Africa, where poverty remains a major challenge and where most countries have not benefited fully from the opportunities of globalization, which has further exacerbated the continent's marginalization;

33. *Reaffirms* its support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[13] encourages further efforts in the implementation of the commitments contained therein in the political, economic and social fields, and calls upon the developed countries and the United Nations system to continue to support the New Partnership, the primary objective of which is to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development on the basis of African ownership and leadership and enhanced partnership with the international community, in accordance with the principles, objectives and priorities of the New Partnership;

34. *Calls upon* the Governments of the least developed countries and their development partners to implement fully the commitments contained in the Brussels Declaration[14] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for

[13] A/57/304, annex.
[14] A/CONF.191/12.

the Decade 2001-2010,[15] adopted at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries;

35. *Stresses* the significant challenge to poverty reduction posed by the geographical disadvantages of landlocked developing countries and the vulnerabilities of small island developing States, and in this context welcomes the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action,[16] at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003, and supports the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[17] to be held in Mauritius in 2004;

The United Nations and the fight against poverty

36. *Calls for* the full implementation of its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, which provides a comprehensive basis for the follow-up to the outcomes of those conferences and summits and contributes to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and notes in this context the decision to review in 2005 the progress achieved in implementing all commitments made in the Millennium Declaration and that there is scope for a major event;

37. *Reaffirms* the role of United Nations funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and its associated funds, in assisting the national efforts of developing countries, inter alia, in the eradication of poverty and the need for their funding in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

39. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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[15] A/CONF.191/11.

[16] A/CONF.203/3, annex I.

[17] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.